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April 10, 2000 LB 1161, 1213

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...looks at the bottom 20 percent of school districts with regard to merger and unification?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I wouldn't have a problem with that, Senator Beutler. I think it would be an interesting study. I guess I wouldn't support any mandatory consolidation take place because of that. I still believe that consolidation should take place because they see the advantage of that taking place.

SENATOR BEUTLER: One of the...it occurs to me that in light of the reports and the situation in your district where...one might ask the question of whether the configuration occurred because that was best for the education of the students,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...or whether the configuration...did you say time, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes, sir, I did.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I was listening carefully to Senator Brashear. I would like to respond that LB 1213 was not...what I think he was talking about was LB 1161, which he supported in committee. Senator Beutler, I don't believe that...and it was LB 50, was the original incentive...the bill that set up the incentives for schools wishing to merge or consolidate. I don't remember. But I remember at that time, Senator Beutler, I don't think you were in favor of that bill, much for the same reasons you're talking about today, nor did you favor the unification bill last year, or the Hardship Fund. And so at least you're being consistent. But I think we could argue on the point of process that these were both bills out of the Education Committee. Even what we're talking about in the whole line of incentive money, unification,